

5 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Attached copy of DD/S Notice # 51-3,  
"Place Same Information Service"

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1. The subject Notice, which directly relates to OSI payment of over a year and contract arrangements with the Board on Geographic Names (Office of Geography), is OSI's first information on this matter.

2. The Notice incorrectly and misleadingly states that the Office of Geography "provides the staff" for BGN. Except for some nominal funds from OSAP this staff is "provided" by OSI funds under the long-standing contract for the primary purpose of producing and maintaining GIS Gazetteers.

a. The Notice might well lead Agency users to feel that only Interior would be affected by any fullscale or increased request for this service, when in fact this would directly relate to BGN production of Gazetteers and/or request for budget support levels.

3. OSI has accepted the fact that such service could be provided to Government components by BGN incidental to the primary mission of producing Gazetteers but we have urged, particularly in the past few years when we have been trying to hold or reduce the level of funds for BGN, that this service be carefully kept within bounds. OSI cannot at this time determine the volume of requests to BGN which may result from the transfer announced by the Notice and in any event recognizes potential Agency need for the subject service, but this action may well complicate our plans for economies in BGN funding and/or may impede Gazetteer production as a Government-wide common concern.

4. Such a Notice, at the least, should have urged optimum use of Gazetteers to minimize ad hoc requests. It is my understanding that Map Library Division has more comprehensive source materials to service ad hoc place-name requests, inasmuch as BGN's map inventory at a given time tends to be more related to currently scheduled Gazetteer production. A given workload might well require more BGN effort than was the case with Map Library. This should further offset any impression that this action represents Agency economy.

5. I recommend suggestion to OSR that they arrange discussion with OSI to explore the practicalities of such a transfer of service and, if the transfer be agreed to be appropriate, joint development of a rescinding Notice which will correct the record and be designed to minimize ad hoc requests through appropriate and optimum use of the Gazetteers.

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Attachment

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1 - AO	1 - ORR
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